

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05400 231809Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /049 W
-----106446 240657Z /16

R 231410Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1523
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5400

OECD, USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, IT, PINT
SUBJECT: LABOR - CGIL DESIRE FOR AMERICAN CONTACTS

REF: ROME 4773

1. SUMMARY: AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE CGIL HAS REQUESTED DISCREET CONTACTS WITH THE
USG AND THE AFL-CIO ON THE OCCASION OF THE OECD CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON IN MID-JULY. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS A FORTHCOMING
RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LABOR ATTACHE WAS VISITED MARCH 22 BY LUIGI TROIANI,
OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED
LABOR CONFEDERATION, CGIL. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO SOLICIT
CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, BOTH AT THE GOVERNMENTAL
LEVEL AND WITH THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 05400 231809Z

3. TROIANI REFERRED AT LENGTH TO THE CGIL WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE WFTU AS INDICATIVE OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN CGIL POLICY.
HE SAID THAT, PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING,
NO ONE IN THE CGIL GENERAL COUNCIL HAD ARGUED AGAINST PULLING
OUT OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL. THE ONLY DISCUSSION WAS
ON THE PROPER WAY FORMALLY TO CONVEY THE DECISION TO THE

WFTU. BECAUSE THE WFTU CONGRESS IS TO BE HELD IN PRAGUE, WHICH HE SAID THE CGIL REGARDS TO BE THE CAPITAL OF A NATION OCCUPIED BY SOVIET TROOPS, IT WAS FELT INAPPROPRIATE FOR LAMA TO BE IN ATTENDANCE. DRAW OUT ON THE SUBJECT OF PRAGUE, TROIANI SPUN OUT THE COMMUNIST DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVIET SUPPRESSION IN BUDAPEST AND PRAGUE, SO THAT IN THE PCI/CGIL CATECHISM, SOVIET TROOPS IN HUNGARY ARE NOT OCCUPYING THAT COUNTRY.

4. SINCE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WFTU WAS A GRAVE MATTER, IT COULD NOT SIMPLY BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE MAILS. FURTHERMORE, THERE WAS THE MATTER OF SIMPLE COURTESY. THIS LED TO A DECISION TO SEND A GROUP OF MIDDLE-LEVEL OBSERVERS TO THE PRAGUE CONGRESS FOR THIS PURPOSE, TROIANI SAID.

5. ONCE HE WAS ASSURED THAT THE CGIL ACTION WAS KNOWN TO THE AFL-CIO AND WAS DOUBTLESS REGARDED AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, TROIANI MADE A PLEA FOR ENDING THE LONG YEARS OF "ESTRANGEMENT" BETWEEN THE CGIL AND THE US IN GENERAL. NO DOUBT THERE CONTINUED TO BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CGIL AND THE AFL-CIO, BUT HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES HAD TAUGHT HIM THAT AMERICANS WERE A PRAGMATIC PEOPLE. THE CGIL, TOO, WAS BECOMING VERY PRAGMATIC, HE SAID, AS WITNESS THE VOTE IN THE ILO FOR IRVING BROWN, THOUGH BROWN WAS DOUBTLESS NOT THE NUMBER ONE CGIL BOOSTER IN THE UNITED STATES. THE REASON, TROIANI SAID, WAS THAT THE CGIL HOPED THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 05400 231809Z

COULD HELP KEEP THE US IN THE ILO.

6. TROIANI NOTED THERE IS TO BE AN OECD CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON IN MID-JULY AND THAT THE CGIL HAS BEEN INVITED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SOME CONTACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR, AND ALSO WITH THE AFL-CIO, ON THAT OCCASION.

7. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, HE NOTED THE CGIL WAS OFTEN APPROACHED BY INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN UNIONS OR UNION LEADERS. THE CGIL WANTED, HOWEVER, TO BE "ENTIRELY CORRECT" WITH THE AFL-CIO, DID NOT WISH TO CIRCUMVENT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL HIERARCHY BUT WANTED SOLELY AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.

8. TROIANI ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN THE PROSPECTS FOR HAVING SOME CONTACTS OF THE KIND NOTED. TO FACILITATE MATTERS, HE CONFIDED THAT THE CGIL WOULD PREPARED TO SEND ONLY SOCIALISTS TO THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (TROIANI IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A SOCIALIST). FURTHERMORE, THE CGIL RECOGNIZES, AND DOES NOT WISH TO INJURE, THE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED. THEY WOULD GIVE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES

OF DISCRETION AND WOULD MAKE NO PUBLIC EXPLOITATION OF SUCH ENCOUNTERS, TROIANI SAID.

9. COMMENT: TROIANI ATTENDED A EUROPEAN STUDIES COURSE AT HARVARD A FEW YEARS AGO. HE INDICATES HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE CGIL IS OF MORE RECENT DATE. END COMMENT.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY, FOR TRANSMISSION TO TROIANI, WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO HAVE THE KINDS OF CONTACTS REQUESTED AT STATE AND LABOR. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HAVE A READING WITH RESPECT TO CONTACTS WITH THE AFL-CIO. THE EMBASSY, WILL, IN ADDITION, RAISE THE MATTER WITH IRVING BROWN WHEN NEXT HE VISITS ROME. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 05400 231809Z

THAT THE KINDS OF CONTACTS REQUESTED ARE CONSISTENT WITH POLICY, AND WOULD BE OF BENEFIT. A POSITIVE RESPONSE IS RECOMMENDED. GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME05400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-1140
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780332/aaaabaob.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5bb8d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 4773
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3224651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR - CGIL DESIRE FOR AMERICAN CONTACTS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT, AFL-CIO, CGIL, (TROINI, LUIGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5bb8d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014